

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7373

BILL NUMBER: HB 1539

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Reporting MRSA Infections.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Noe

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a hospital to: (1) develop a plan to reduce the incidence of persons contracting a methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection at the hospital; and (2) submit an annual report on the number of MRSA infections at the hospital.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires hospitals to submit a plan to reduce MRSA infection at their respective hospital to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). The first report is required to be submitted by January 1, 2010, and every two years after that. Additionally, hospitals are required to report MRSA infection to ISDH every year. Information submitted to ISDH is a matter of public record. These provisions are not expected to have a fiscal impact on ISDH.

Background Information: ISDH currently has reporting and investigating procedures in place for serious forms of staphylococcus infections. ISDH asks that all severe staphylococcus infections in previously healthy people are reported as well as antibiotic resistance patterns. These procedures cover MRSA as well as any other antibiotic resistant staphylococcus infections causing severe illness.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* Persons who fail to report information to ISDH regarding communicable or dangerous diseases commit Class A infractions and individuals that recklessly violate or fail to comply with the reporting requirements commit Class B misdemeanors. To the extent that individuals fail to report the required information they may be subject to criminal penalties.

If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000 and for a Class A infraction is \$10,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Penalty Provision:* A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any additional revenue is likely to be small.

State Agencies Affected: ISDH.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Scott Zarazee, ISDH.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.